

Starburst

Your DOE-VPP News Source

This edition of Starburst highlights a Question and Answer column, provides updates on Pantex and Hanford activities, the New Orleans and Livermore meetings on laboratory DOE-VPP activities and the first news from the Savannah River Site on-site evaluation.



John W. Walt S.
VPP Rappers

IDAHO VPP Week

DOE-ID Manager John Wilcynski and Deputy Manager Walt Sato were just some of the volunteers who performed the original "VPP Rap" as part of a INEEL Voluntary Protection Program Safety Awareness Week in early February. The performers wore shades and colorful caps while proclaiming the value of safety. A free lunch was provided for the employees of Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies. Company employees refocused on the value of safety. Charlie Morecraft, a former EXXON refinery employee, shared his experiences

from choosing not to work safely in 1980. He said, "Everything I had was lost in one split second". Morecraft challenged employees to start taking care of one another. Safety away from the office was the focus of many demonstrations, displays and catered lunches. The Central Facilities Area held a safety and health bowl in conjunction with their lunchtime gathering. Competing teams from 11 directorates answered basic environment, safety and health questions from company procedures, VPP guidance manuals and the Code of Federal Regulations. Over 1500 people attended the celebration.



Safety Displays



The 13th Annual VPPPA conference will be in Hilton Riverside, New Orleans, LA from September 9 - 12, 1997. Hope to see you there!

DOE-VPP Electronic Times



- Fluor Daniel Hanford and its subcontractors have a new VPP Homepage. The URL is www.hanford.gov/safety/vpp/vppage.htm.
- Interested in empowered employee safety committees? Visit the Executive Safety Committee of Plant Engineering at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory at www.llnl.gov/pe/exsc.
- The Headquarters DOE-VPP homepage is accessible at www.eh.doe.gov/VPP and also from the new EH-5 homepage. The DOE-VPP team is continually upgrading its electronic capability. This issue of the STARBURST may have come to you via e-mail. If you desire a color copy and do not have a color printer, please e-mail us.

Personal Notes

*send
contributions
to the editor*



Congratulations to Savannah River Site for taking the first step to STAR status! After completing some 90-day items, the site will be eligible for formal STAR status.

Ray Rogers has retired to a quiet place in Orlando.

Editor: Dan Marsick, 301-903-3954,
FAX 301-903-2239, dan.marsick@eh.doe.gov

**WE ARE WHAT WE REPEATEDLY
DO. EXCELLENCE, THEN, IS NOT
AN ACT, BUT A HABIT!**

-Aristotle

Laboratory DOE-VPP Meetings

A two day, DOE-VPP workshop to discuss issues and identify paths for success at the National Laboratories occurred in New Orleans in mid-December. The meeting of over 20 field representatives began with a general overview of the DOE-VPP, a discussion of OSHA transition issues and presentations by selected field personnel on their experiences in implementing the Voluntary Protection Program.

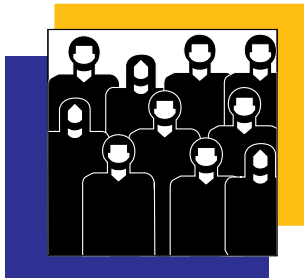
In the afternoon session, Ron Eimer, DOE, and Dr. Robert Gaither of Texaco began with an overview of the Headquarters DOE-VPP efforts and a discussion of benchmarking. The rest of the afternoon was devoted to work groups where participants discussed obstacles/barriers, barrier-breaking, communication plans, and paths for success related to DOE-VPP. The Lab participants were keenly interested in Dr. Gaither's presentation and seemed encouraged to learn of the positive results achieved at the Texaco Research Facility. His presentation on how VPP concepts can work in a laboratory setting, even where most of the employees are scientists, was most effective.

The second day began with summary presentations from the individual work groups. Some common issues identified and discussed by the work groups included resource limitations (time and money), a seeming lack of coordination of Headquarters initiatives (ISMS, Work Smart, ISO 14000), field reengineering and the uncertain political environment.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the importance for "ownership" of the DOE-VPP process at each worksite and by the National Labs as a whole. Participants were asked to volunteer to be part of a National Labs' "Champions Team" to help make the DOE-VPP happen at the labs.

In early March, The "Champions Team" representing five national laboratories met at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. A laboratory group under the chairmanship of Joel Wong (510-424-6985) was formed. Their work plan includes a white paper incorporating the results of self assessments and employee questionnaires and also a crosswalk between the Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) and the DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). Any and all national laboratories are invited to join the laboratory group.

Happenings



NORTHWEST **Nancy Hammond** **301-903-1731**

(WA,OR,ID,UT,CO)
Employee safety and health were the focus of a two-day workshop in February sponsored by Lockheed

Martin Idaho Technologies Company (LMITCO) and the Department of Energy (DOE). See the lead article. Monthly tele/videoconferences are held.

(Submitted by Shane Bush, 208-526-7976)

A DOE-VPP "Partnering for Safety" workshop will be held from September 22 to 24, 1997, in Pasco, WA. The workshop is comprised of panels, speakers, and breakouts and is being held in conjunction with the HAMMER facility dedication (see page 5). Expo 97, an annual Hanford safety tradition, will be held from May 14-15, 1997.

(Submitted by Dann Henry, 509-376-8872)

NORTHEAST/MIDWEST & Labs

Dan Marsick 301-903-3954

(NY,NJ,MN,WI,IL,IN,MI,OH)

Very successful meetings were held with representatives from National Laboratories and other research facilities in New Orleans in December and Livermore, CA in March. As a result of these meetings, a core group is working together under Joel Wong (510-424-6985) to promote voluntary protection programs at the National Laboratories. See page 2.

CENTRAL

Sanji Kanth 301-903-4516

(IA,KS,MO,NM,OK,LA,TX)

Even though **Pantex** is going through its first major downsizing, it has continued to nurture its VPP efforts. At the beginning of the fiscal year, 88 children submitted drawings for the 1997 safety calendar coloring contest. So many excellent drawings were submitted that 24 were chosen for inclusion in the calendar. These children each received a gift certificate to the mall. All entrants received a yo-yo in appreciation for their efforts. The calendars were distributed to all employees, and were well received. Pantex received comments on the application from EH at the end of November, and submitted a response in January. Plant employees are anxiously awaiting the on-site review.

The Safe Work Awards Program (SWAP) is the incentive program at Pantex. It is comprised of three parts - individual award, group award, and a drawing.

All employees who received the individual award were eligible for the drawing. The VPP Steering Committee held the drawing on December 11, 1996, and awarded 110 prizes worth approximately \$4000. On February 24, 1997, the next promotional game started. The VPP Steering Committee has generated five safety-related crossword puzzles, which will be distributed through the *Pantex Pulse*, our weekly publication. Most answers can be found in the VPP Employee Handbook, and employees have three weeks to submit their answered puzzles. Each month, 300 winners will be selected from the correct entries. Each winning entrant will receive a prize.

(Submitted by Frank George, 806-477-3412 and Patrice Ford, 806-477-4640)

MK-Ferguson at the Weldon Spring Site

Remedial Action Project (WSSRAP) located in St. Charles, Missouri, has submitted a DOE-VPP application to their Oak Ridge Operations Office.

(Submitted by Joe Enright, 314-441-8978)

SOUTHEAST

David Smith 301-903-4669

(TN,NC,SC,GA,FL)

After two weeks at **Westinghouse/Bechtel (Savannah River Site)**, the EH on-site review team voted conditional STAR status for the site. The site must complete some specific items over a 90 day period which began in early April.

Oak Ridge Associated Universities at Oak Ridge have requested an outreach partner from the Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association (VPPPA).

(Submitted by Robert Kapolka, 423-576-3339)

SOUTHWEST/ WEST

Sanji Kanth 301-903-4516

(CA,NV)

Employee representatives from Bechtel Nevada (Nevada Test Site) made a presentation at a Southern Nevada American Society of Safety Engineers/American Industrial Hygiene Association jointly sponsored conference held in the spring of this year. The presentation described their efforts toward a Performance Based Safety Process.

Wackenhut Services Incorporated (WSI) at the Nevada Test Site submitted their draft DOE-VPP application to the Nevada Operations office.

HEADQUARTERS

Ron Eimer 301-903-4435

There are ongoing discussions on how to improve our customer representative program. Your thoughts and suggestions are welcome. A presentation was made to the VPPPA Board of Directors updating the attendees on the DOE-VPP on February 12, 1997 in Washington, D.C.

(Submitted by Ron Eimer, 301-903-4435)



Focus on Programs

Contractor Programs of Note

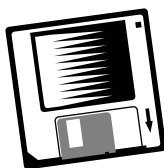
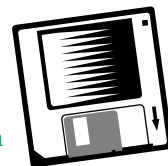
Condensate-Induced Water Hammer

Utilities Training (Dyncorp, formerly of the ICF Kaiser Hanford Company) has developed a comprehensive program using several different training techniques, including video production, classroom instruction, hands-on training, and practical exercises on lessons learned. To date, Condensation Induced Water Hammer Safety training has been presented to several hundred Hanford employees, to the Westinghouse Hanford Corporation (WHC) Self Assessment Team on prevention of Water Hammer, at a DOE/HQ sponsored workshop in Pasco Wa., and at the 1994 TRADE Conference in Dallas, Texas. In January of 1995, West Valley Nuclear Services requested that Westinghouse Hanford send instructors and equipment to New York State and train its steam systems workers. This was done in late February, and resulted in a personal letter from the President of West Valley to WHC.

This training program has become the standard for prevention of condensation induced water hammer, and is used nationwide throughout the DOE Complex, as well as private industry. This highly effective training program material has been requested for use by many private organizations such as Iowa State University, Exxon in Alaska, and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

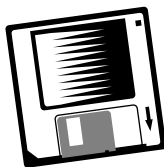
Software Profile

As stand-alone products, one can choose from **AUDITProfiles™**, a highly customizable expert level auditing software; **EP.TRACKER™**, a full featured action tracking and verification tool; or **SPARQ™**, a site or plant level software product used to conduct self assessments and inspections, as well as track outstanding recommendations. **AUDITProfiles™** can measure program performance, automate the auditing process and compare the audit results by time and location.



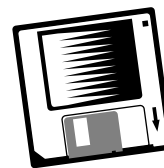
The strength of these software tools is more fully realized when they are integrated. Using **AUDITProfiles™**, the health, safety and environmental expert can perform their audits and create questionnaires for the individual facilities. These facilities import into **SPARQ™** questionnaires created in **AUDITProfiles™**. The facility can conduct their own self-assessments and inspections, measure performance, and track trends and recommendations. **SPARQ™** is inexpensive and easy to use. The facility is able to electronically transmit completed questionnaires back to the program manager.

To complete the audit and assessment process, the professional must ensure that findings and recommendations are brought to closure. The integrated **EP.TRACKER™** program will automatically download information collected in **AUDITProfiles**. The expected completion dates, responsible parties and status of recommendations are more efficiently managed.

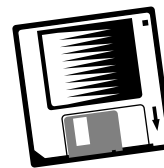


The software programs were designed to be used with a facility's existing protocols and questionnaires. That facility's existing audit and assessment protocols and checklist can be imported into EPi's software tools. EPi has also built an extensive library of regulatory (OSHA, EPA), management (VPP, ISO), and other special programs, protocols and questionnaires.

In particular, the **VPP Profile** contains five divisions, based on OSHA Program Management Guidelines published in the Federal Register in 1989. These Program Management Guidelines are the boilerplate for OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program. Approximately 600 questions have been included in the 19 sections within these divisions. The DOE on-site evaluation guide (over 400 questions) is also available. In the **VPP Application Profile**, five divisions are designed to duplicate the VPP application questionnaire required by OSHA or DOE. Using VPP Application Profile, management can perform an audit of their VPP program areas, highlighting application strengths and weaknesses, before OSHA or DOE receives and critiques the application. **SPARQ™** may be especially useful for annual VPP facility self-assessments. These software packages are available for purchase.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILES, INC.
5570 Sterrett Place, Suite 208 • Columbia, MD 21044
(800) EPI-6484 • (410) 964-0008 FAX



(Candidates for this listing must have relevance to the automation of the VPP process and be reasonably available. No endorsement is implied by this listing. Qualified vendors are invited to submit information to the editors on VPP-related software. Comments on the usefulness of any products listed in this space are also welcome.)

HAMMER Training and Education Center Dedication

On September 26, 1997, a HAMMER training center, (Hazardous Material Management and Emergency Response), will be dedicated. HAMMER is a Federal training project partnering with the Department of Energy (DOE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Senior officials from these Federal partners along with seven International Union presidents, Washington state Governor Locke, members of Washington state's congressional delegation, Tribal leaders, and state and community leaders are expected to attend the dedication.

HAMMER began in 1986 as a community-based Tri-Cities Industrial Development Council (TRIDEC) initiative, in partnership with the Hanford Site, to improve training for emergency responders and hazardous material workers. Oregon and Washington state legislators unanimously passed resolutions of support for HAMMER. This congressional line item is supported by Senator Patty Murray, Senator Slade Gorton, Congressman Norm Dicks, Congressman Doc Hastings and many other members of Congress.

This wide support provides HAMMER economies of scale and has reduced redundancy which means better training at lower costs. HAMMER offers the most expansive selection of training props in the country and perhaps in the world. It will operate as a demonstration model for training technology throughout the Department of Energy complex. Along with training and education, the HAMMER program includes medical surveillance, risk analysis, implementation of health and safety standards, performance and proficiency monitors, and evaluation. (Submitted by HAMMER, 509-372-7769)



1. Where can I get material with which to sell my management?

Request material from your customer representative. We are here to help!

2. If DOE goes to external regulation, will my DOE-VPP Star be recognized by OSHA?

Any DOE-VPP Star will be recognized with minimal contractor effort according to OSHA Staff.

3. Who do I send my application to?

The completed application should first go to the field office and the Operations Office for review and comment. Then it should be sent to the major Cognizant Secretarial Office for the Site. Eventually, the application should be sent to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Worker Health and Safety.

Finally, the application will be sent to EH-51. This iterative process can take from as little as 2 months to two years depending on the situation.

4. What does VPPPA stand for?

Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association: a consortium of VPP Participants who work together to maintain and promote excellence in safety and health programs.

5. What is an outreach partner?

For a small fee the VPPPA will find a similar facility, or Outreach Partner, (that has already achieved the STAR status) to work with your facility.

Connected to the InterNet:

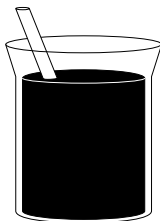
US Navy "VPP" - www.ndw.navy.mil/dept/enviro/safety/ia_emptartchange.html
Australian "VPP" - www.wt.com.au/safetyline/ws_plan/wsp_ind.htm
British "VPP" - www.iosh.co.uk/safcult.htm
Montana "VPP" - www.SafetyOnline.net/ishn/9610/featr.htm
Kentucky "VPP" - www.pulsar.cs.wku.edu/~russellg/ih/assessment.html
Oregon SHARP - www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/sdmin/newsltr.htm

Noted on the Net:

OSHA Voluntary Compliance Training Classes in Virginia Beach, VA for 2 days
For information, call (757) 490-5205

Lab Note

**Dartmouth researcher
poisoned by material
she was studying**



Associated Press, 03/28/97

HANOVER, N.H. (AP) - A respected Dartmouth College professor is in the hospital after an apparent research accident left her poisoned by the toxic mercury she was studying. Professor Karen Wetterhahn was diagnosed with mercury poisoning eight weeks ago. The college and hospital won't discuss her condition, but her family issued a statement saying treatment is continuing.

Officials from Dartmouth's Chemistry and Environmental Health and Safety departments believe

Wetterhahn was poisoned sometime in August while working alone with dimethylmercury. The mercury compound has no practical uses, but Wetterhahn was using it in her studies of mercury toxicity. There also is a delay between exposure and when a victim begins feeling the effects.

No one knows for sure how Wetterhahn was poisoned, but they suspect some of the mercury touched her skin and was absorbed into her body. John Winn, chairman of Dartmouth's chemistry department, said it was hard to tell how much she had absorbed. He was not sure whether the mercury compound soaked through protective gear or touched her skin directly. Wetterhahn was diagnosed after tests in January showed she had an elevated level of mercury. She was tested due to numbness in her fingers, unsteady walking, difficulty in speaking and vision and hearing problems.

C a l e n d a r

April 21-23

Region VII VPPPA Chapter
Conference and Application Workshop
Kansas City, MO
(call Mick Anderson, 308-233-5428)

May 14-16

Region X VPPPA Chapter
Conference and Application Workshop
Olympia, WA
(call Boyd Schvaneveldt, 208-547-3331)

June 4-6

Region II VPP Application Workshop
Albany, NY (call VPPPA, 703-761-1146)

June 5

Deadline for Summer 1997 **Starburst**

June 11-13

Region IV VPP Application Workshop
Atlanta, GA (call VPPPA, 703-761-1146)

June 1997

Region V VPPPA Chapter
Conference and Application Workshop
Milwaukee, WI
(call Jodi Shapiro, 847-576-4447)

September 9-12

National VPPPA Conference, New Orleans
(call VPPPA, 703-761-1146)

Send contributions to the editor

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Return on OSH Investment

A methodology for evaluating health and safety costs and software that documents the financial and risk reduction impact of safety and health investments should be the Spring 1997

product of a joint effort by 14 major corporations with Organization Resource Counselors and Arthur Andersen.

Chilton's IHSN, October 1996

Do safety incentive programs really help?

Swearingen, M. H. One of the most important points to remember about monthly drawings is that the rewards must increase each month.

Occupational Health & Safety pp, 164-165, Oct. 1996

VPP Companies' Best Practices

Patterson, Jean M.

Here are eight ways high-achieving companies put safety, health, and environmental excellence into effect. (Battelle-Pantex Hazard Identification Teams are mentioned)

Occupational Health & Safety pp, 60-61, Jan. 1997

Study Shows Training Protects Health, Saves Costs

A three-year study shows that mandatory safety and health training for workers results in self-protective behaviors and saves employers' safety and health costs compared with voluntary programs.

IMPACT on Construction Safety and Health,
February 1977